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The following rules will be in effect as of the start of the Wednesday & Thursday Seasons beginning August 2017.

Rearranging Games

(the below still implies a 24 hr notice period. Under 24 hrs and the cancelling team will lose the match as they currently do)

1 - League

After the final scheduled league game there will be 3 weeks of games before Finals Night.

The second and third week of this 3 week period will be allocated for the Semi Finals of the Knockout Competition.

The first week after the scheduled League Season is a free week to catch up rearranged games. Any game that is cancelled during the season will automatically be put on this night. The consequence of this is that if a 2nd game is cancelled, it is Your Responsibility to arrange this game with the opposition. If you are required to catch it up on a different night of the week, that is your responsibility to arrange.

Even if your opponent cancels on you, that game will be placed into the free week. If you then need to cancel a game later in the season, you will have to arrange this and play it on another night of the week.

A list of these games will be placed on the website. The free gameweek will be on there with all games so everyone is aware, and below that will be a list of other games that have been cancelled with a note of the cancelling team. This will ensure a record is available and to avoid arguments at the end of the season if I award the points and give the cancelling team a 7-0 loss.

This is a compromise. My initial thought was to install a rule where there would be no cancellations. If you can't play, you lose, no matter the reason. The scenario above is a compromise which may seem harsh, however over the last couple of seasons, numerous teams have finished the scheduled season with a lot of games to catch up. This knocks onto every other pub having no games for weeks, possibly even over a month, before the new season starts.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out that a game can take place even if you only have 4 players. You are permitted to sign up as many subs as you wish and can add more players during the season. If you can't field a team of 6 but have 4 or 5, I would expect you to still go ahead with the fixture.

2 - Singles/Doubles Knockout

These games can be rearranged so long as more than 24 hrs is given. Games will roll over to a double header on the next round. If you're already in a double header due to a cancellation in the last round then you cannot cancel. There will be no triple headers. If this scenario arises, you will lose the tie.

3 - Team/3-Man Knockout

These games cannot be rearranged under any circumstances. I have placed this rule out publicly for 2 seasons now yet I'm still forced to bend to people asking me to be lenient and I take the flak and the additional admin to move things around. This will not happen at all from now on.

The fixture dates are known well in advance. You are permitted to name subs (multiple for the Team KO and 1 for the 3-Man). A fixture can be played with 4 players for the Team KO and 2 players for the 3-Man. If you are unable to fulfil a fixture, you will lose the match, no matter the notice period.

Reffing Games

A constant pain in my arse is calls from teams who complain after the fact. To be clear, the referee's decision is final. Once the game moves on, nothing can be done.

To that end, it is essential that if you are reffing a game, you know all the rules and are willing to be vocal during the game.

If you are reffing and you see a scenario where you feel the player is attempting an impossible shot which will result in a deliberate foul, it is your responsibility as the ref to warn the player before they take a shot.

Skill Shot

Example. You are red, your opponent is yellow. Your opponent has covered the pocket in front of your red. You have the option to play your red ball into the yellow ball in such a way as both balls drop.

Occasionally this shot happens by fluke, where you may pot the opponents ball through a ricochet and then a few seconds later, your ball goes down. The order the balls go down is irrelevant.

This is not a "rule" so to speak, but more a courtesy to the ref. Given what I've said above about refereeing, I would suggest as a courtesy that if you're going for a skill shot, you let the ref know. This way, if the ref does feel the shot isn't possible (balls too close together, pocket ball not in the centre of the pocket) then you can discuss it and then not be starting a row when the ref calls a deliberate and gives the frame the other way.

Transfers

Transfers between teams will be allowed in certain circumstances. Any transfer will be confirmed by me and the captain to ensure it's acceptable. Each transfer will be looked at individually. Transfers will not be allowed if:

- The team being moved away from are left with fewer than 6 players and cannot continue in the league.
- A player just simply, fancies a change.

This rule has been brought in to allow players to move if a team folds or if there are irreconcilable differences which force a player out of a team.

Players can only move 1 time per season (Can play for no more than 2 teams in 1 season).

Expulsion From The League

Not turning up to a match with no communication is unacceptable. You will be given 1 chance on this. If it happens a 2nd time, your team will be removed from the league.

Misc

- When playing Doubles in a League or Knockout game, the order the names are written bears no meaning to the person that breaks. I.E. The person named first does not have to break. Either player can.
- Scenario: Your opponent plays their ball to the edge of the pocket, then leaves the table, then upon you coming to the table, before you play a shot, their ball falls in the pocket. Ever since I have been playing, I have had the outcome of this to be a foul to the other player. However after reading every edition of the BAPTO rules I can find, there isn't really any mention of this specific scenario. Therefore we will play this in the following way: The ball is taken out of the pocket, placed back on the table as close to where it fell as possible, and play continues. There is no foul and the person who approached as the ball fell will continue their turn. If anyone find a legitimate copy of the rules to counter what's written here, please contact me.
- Any ball coming off of the table is placed back on, or as near as possible to the Black Spot. A foul is given. This scenario is the same for the Black or any coloured object ball. You don't lose if the black comes off the table.

- It has been made apparent to me that a number of teams in the league do not pay much into the Football Card. I have witnessed some teams taking only 2 or 3 of the 20 squares. It's not a rule so to speak, but a courtesy to the pub, that if you are going to turn up to play and eat the food, then you should be putting some money into the pot, not just 1 or 2 of the team.
- If all money for the KO has not been paid by the day of the first round, players will be removed from the competition. It's not fair that I am chasing and chasing for an entire season and having to cover money from my own pocket to cover the cost of trophies.

Singles - £3 per person

Doubles - £3 per pair

3-Man - £1 per person (max 4 per team)

Team KO - Free

All money goes to buying trophies and I allocate the full amount. For the July/Aug Weds & Thurs Finals Nights I had to pay £30 myself (for Thursdays, Weds was fine).

OK, that's all I can think of but if anybody has an issue or a rule they'd like looked at, please contact me.

Adam